

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES

This Fact Sheet details homicides and suicides that occurred in the act of or following a domestic violence (DV) incident.

## In Utah for 2005:

- There were 65 domestic violence-related deaths of adults ages 18 and older.
- Of the 65 deaths, 44 were suicides and 21 were homicides. The 21 homicides comprised 39.6% of the 53 homicides that were committed in 2005.
- 42 of the suicides were male, 2 were female.
- Six of the suicides were males who killed themselves after committing a homicide.
- 11 of the homicide victims were female, 10 were male.

This fact sheet includes Utah data collected in the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS). The NVDRS is a state-based system that is coordinated and funded by the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

## 2005 Utah Domestic Violence Homicides and Suicides

### What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence (DV) is defined as a pattern of behavior used to establish power and control over another person through fear and intimidation, often including the threat or use of violence. This includes violence between family members, roommates, and current or former partners.

For this report, a suicide is considered domestic violence related if one of the circumstances surrounding the suicide involved violence or the threat of violence between intimate partners, family members, or roommates.

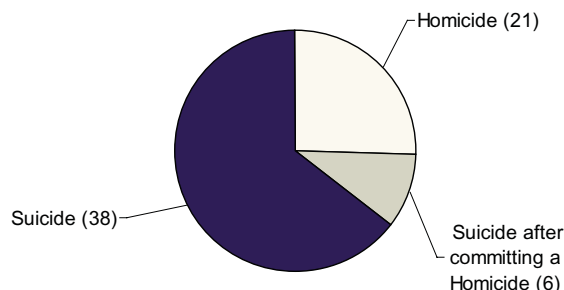
### *What can you do if you know someone who is being abused?*

If you or someone you know is being abused, it is important to get help. Safety planning is crucial to protect the victim and any children in the home. Abuse will not stop on its own.

For help, call the Domestic Violence Information Line at 1-800-897-LINK (5465). You may remain anonymous when calling this number.

No one deserves to be abused. Only the abuser can stop the abusive behavior.

Figure 1. Number of Domestic Violence-related Incidents by Manner, Utah Adult Aged 18+ 2005 (n=59)



# Domestic Violence-related Suicides

## General Facts, Utah 2005

- There were 44 domestic violence-related suicides for a rate for of 25.3 per million adults.
- The rate of male domestic violence-related suicide was 48.3 per million adults, compared to a rate of 2.3 per 1,000,000 for females.
- Of the 27 suicide victims who were tested for illicit drugs (amphetamines, cocaine, and marijuana) 13 (48.1 percent) tested positive.
- Of the 38 suicide victims who were tested for alcohol, 13 (34.2 percent) tested positive. The average blood alcohol concentration for these victims was .23 g/dl, nearly three times the legal limit.
- The most frequent location of domestic violence-related suicides was inside a residence (70.5 percent) **(Figure 2)**.
- 28 (63.6%) of the suicide victims used a firearm **(Figure 3)**.

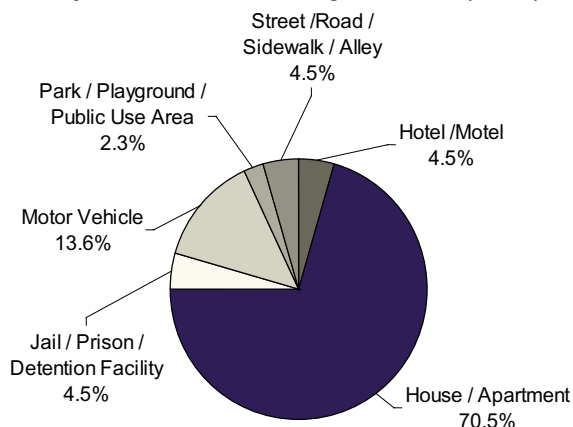
**10 Most Common Circumstances of Domestic Violence-related Suicides Utah, 2005 (n=42)**

Incident Circumstances	Number	Percent
Crisis Within Past 2 Weeks	35	83.3%
Suspect Perpetrated Interpersonal Violence Within the Past Month	30	71.4%
Intimate Partner Problem	29	69.0%
Substance Abuse Problem	17	40.5%
Person Left a Suicide Note	16	38.1%
Disclosed Intent of Suicide by Other Means	13	31.0%
Recent Criminal Legal Problem	12	28.6%
Current Mental Health Problem	10	23.8%

• Categories are not mutually exclusive. Two of the suicides had unknown circumstances.

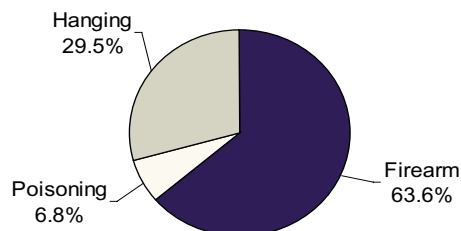
**Figure 2.**

**Percentage of Domestic Violence-related Suicides by Location, Utah Adults Aged 18+ 2005 (n = 44)**



**Figure 3.**

**Percentage of Domestic Violence-related Suicides by Method, Utah Adults Aged 18+ 2005 (n = 44)**



# Domestic Violence-related Homicides

## General Facts, Utah 2005

- There were 21 domestic violence-related homicide deaths, for a rate of 12.1 per million adults.
- Eleven of the victims were female, ten were male (**Figure 6**).
- There were 24 homicide suspects and all were male (**Figure 7**).
- Thirteen of the homicide victims (61.9%) were killed by a firearm (**Figure 4**).
- Suspects were eight times more likely to be Hispanic/Latino persons versus White, non-Hispanic persons (**Figure 11**).
- Eight of the suspects (33.3%) committed or attempted suicide after the incident.
- In four (19.0%) of the incidents, there was a history of reported abuse between the victim and the suspect.
- Eighteen of the 24 suspects (75.0%) were an intimate partner or a family member.
- In three of the deaths, the suspect used multiple weapons; e.g., personal weapons and blunt instrument (**Figure 4**).
- The most frequent location of domestic violence-related homicide was inside a residence (76.2 percent)(**Figure 5**).

Figure 4.

Percentage of Domestic Violence-related Homicides by Weapon Used, Utah Adults Aged 18+ 2005 (n=21)

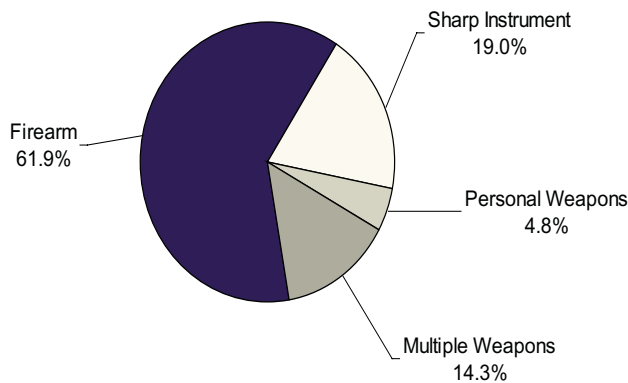
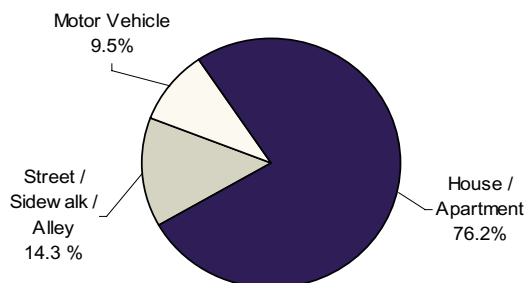


Figure 5.

Percentage of Domestic Violence-related Homicides by Location of Occurrence, Utah Adults Aged 18+ 2005 (n=21)



Most Common Circumstances of Domestic Violence Homicides Utah, 2005 (n=21)

Incident Circumstances	Number	Percent
Intimate Partner Violence-related	14	66.7%
Jealousy (Lovers' Triangle)	8	38.1%
Other Argument/ Abuse/Conflict	6	28.6%
Argument Over Money/Property	4	19.0%
Victim Used Weapon	3	14.3%
Mentally Ill Suspect	2	9.5%
Precipitated by Another Crime	2	9.5%
Victim Was Attempting to Assist Crime Victim	2	9.5%
Brawl	1	4.8%

• Categories are not mutually exclusive. Two of the suicides had unknown circumstances.

# Domestic Violence Homicides

## Victim Demographics

Figure 6.

**Domestic Violence-related Homicide Victims by Sex, Utah 2005 (n=21)**

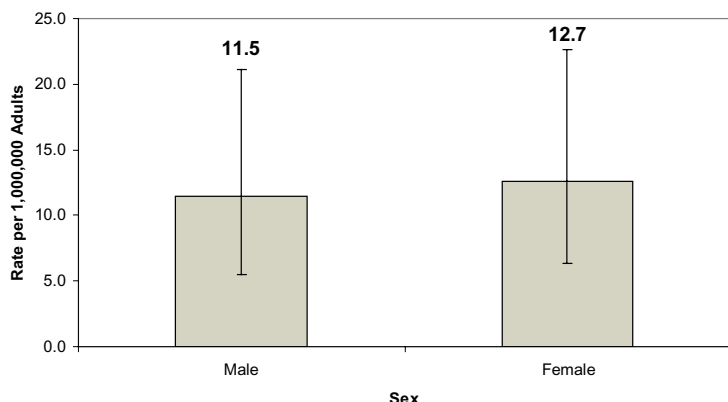


Figure 8.

**Domestic Violence-related Homicide Victims by Age Group, Utah 2005 (n=21)**

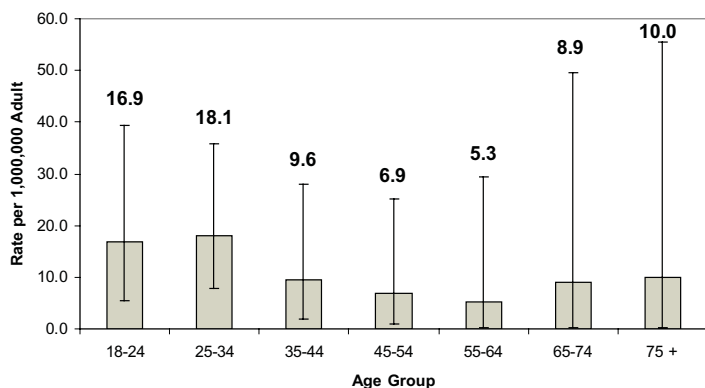


Figure 10.

**Domestic Violence Fatality Victims by Race and Ethnicity, Utah 2005 (n = 21)**

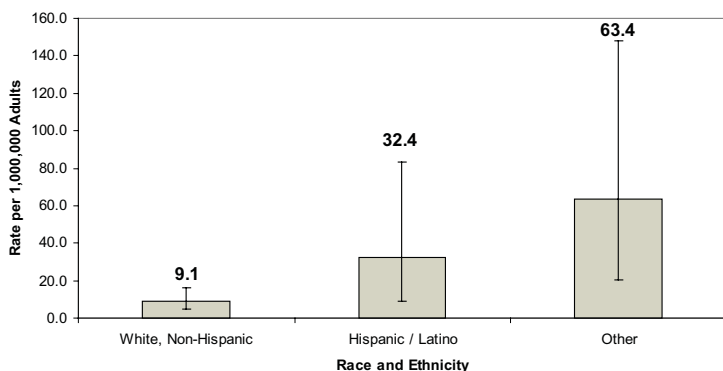


Figure 7.

**Domestic Violence-related Homicide Suspects by Sex, Utah 2005 (n = 24)**

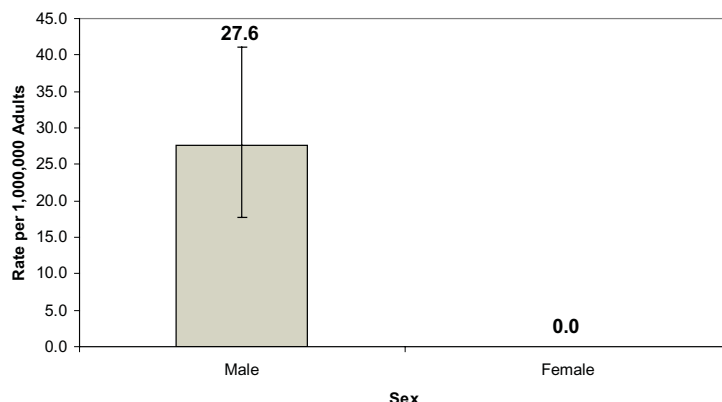
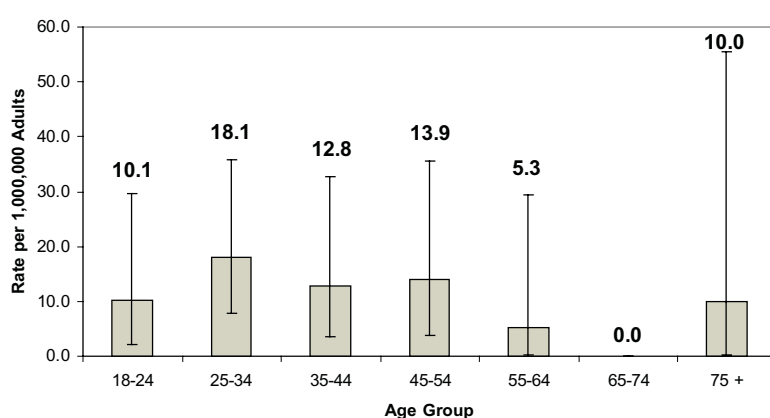


Figure 9.

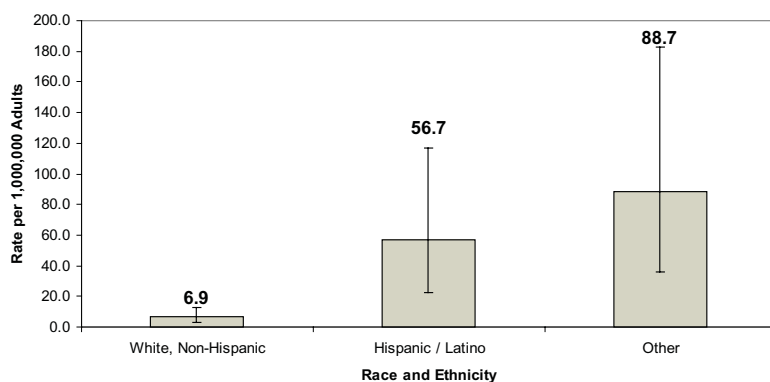
**Domestic Violence-related Homicide Suspects by Age Group, Utah 2005 (n = 21)**



\* Age was not available for three suspects.

Figure 11.

**Domestic Violence Fatality Suspects by Race and Ethnicity, Utah 2005 (n = 23)**



\* Race and ethnicity were not available for one suspect.